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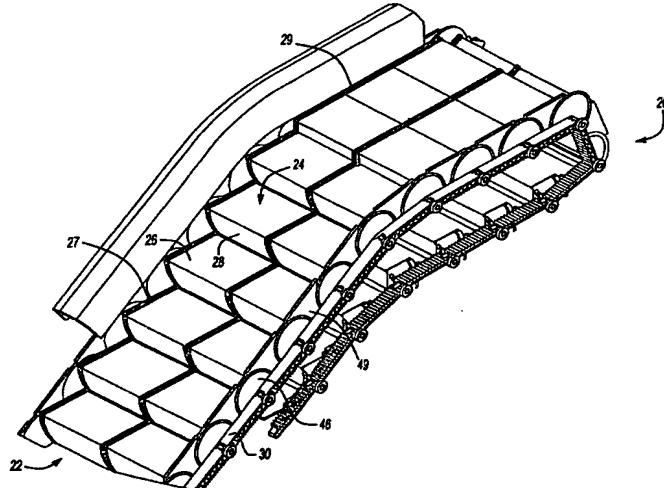
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(54) Title: STEPCHAIN LINK FOR A PASSENGER CONVEYOR SYSTEM



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(57) Abstract: A stepchain for a passenger conveyor includes a plurality of stepchain links (30, 130, 230). There is only one link-to-link interface (31) on each side of the steps (24) such that the number of links (30) on each side of the steps (24) is equal to the number of steps (24). The inventive arrangement reduces rotation or contraction of the stepchain between steps (24). Elongation of the stepchain is also reduced as there is a reduction in the number of interfaces (31). The inventive arrangement also facilitates arcuate movement of the steps (24) along a constant radius through the transition zones between the inclined area (27) and the landing areas (29). Having a truly arcuate movement allows for reducing the gap (33) between the steps (24) at the transition zones. In one example at least one needle bearing (190) is associated with an attachment mechanism (184, 284) at the interface (31) between adjacent links (30) to allow for rotation between the stepchain links (30) and to eliminate the need for lubrication.



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